*Please see original alt.noise post [here](#).*

| Theme | Term$_{*overlap}$ | Count | Terms submitted |
|---|---|---|---|
| spastic | abstract<br>abstract<br>but...communicative, maybe not<br>careless<br>chirping<br>cut-up<br>cut-up<br>cutesy<br>dynamic<br>dynamic<br>dynamic<br>Fred West meets Steps<br>free form<br>hamburger<br>high/low frequency rapid fire shifts<br>high velocity<br>hilarious<br>hyperdynamic<br>Kosakai's envious wardrobe<br>leotard<br>loosely structured<br>machine-gun<br>meaningless<br>nauseating<br>obscene<br>orgasm inducing<br>precarious balanced<br>ridiculous<br>shifting<br>ski fungus<br>space shifting<br>slightly silly<br>spastic<br>spitting multi channeled piercing<br>throbs of cutting analog needles<br>surreal<br>whatever | 36 | densely-packed, unrelenting, high-velocity, expansive, precariously-balanced, timeless, slightly-silly, monstrous<br><br>Space shifting<br>-obscene-aggressive-nauseating-entrancing-orgasm enducing-violent-thought provoking.<br><br>high/low frequency rapid fire shifts, dense blocks of gut quaking pain, spitting multi channeled piercing throbs of cutting analog needles and Kosokai's envious wardrobe..<br><br>hypnotic surreal dominant textured abstract harsh, dense, dynamic, textural, metallic, layered, cut-up, spastic, etc...<br><br>depth... dark... maleable... well-layered... bass... evocative... visual....<br><br>harsh, spastic, loosely structured, complex, violent<br><br>thick, layered, STEREO, loud, full.<br><br>creepy, dark, humorous, sonic, dynamic, spacey. impenetrable, sexy, dynamic, austere, cold, shifting, levatating.<br><br>Loud, harsh, quasi-repetative, monolithic, cut-up, quasi-artistic, low-end.<br><br>chocolate covered, cutesy, arthouse, machine-gun, g-spot inducing, free form, broadway musical style, love em long time. |
| dense | bass<br>broadway musical style<br>chocolate covered<br>complex | 28 | sharp, painful, vocals, grinding, multi-layered, melodies within, beatssometimes |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | complexity | | |
| | dark | | hamburger, leotard, mayor, ski fungus, noise |
| | dense | | |
| | dense | | Fred West meets Steps |
| | densely packed | | |
| | dense blocks of gut quaking pain | | Harsh, LOUD, dense, unrelenting. |
| | depth | | |
| | expansive | | corruscating roaring piercing screaming hyperdynamic euphoric |
| | full | | |
| | grinding | | |
| | impenetrable | | homemade, chirping, fluid, voices, noncomputer. |
| | layered | | |
| | layered | | meaningless, ridiculous, hilarious, self conscious, careless, whatever, but...communicative, maybe not. |
| | low-end | | |
| | monolithic | | grey/abstract/digital/ambient/complexity |
| | monstrous | | |
| | noise | | |
| | multi-layered | | |
| | sonic | | |
| | STEREO | | |
| | textural | | |
| | textured | | |
| | thick | | |
| | well-layered | | |
| harsh | aggressive | 25 | |
| | austere | | |
| | chirping$_{-1}$ | | |
| | cold | | |
| | corruscating | | |
| | dense blocks of gut quaking pain | | |
| | dominant | | |
| | grey | | |
| | grinding$_{-1}$ | | |
| | harsh | | |
| | harsh | | |
| | harsh | | |
| | Harsh | | |
| | loud | | |
| | LOUD | | |
| | monstrous$_{-1}$ | | |
| | noise$_{-1}$ | | |
| | painful | | |
| | piercing | | |
| | roaring | | |
| | screaming | | |
| | sharp | | |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | unrelenting | |
| | unrelenting | |
| | violent | |
| | violent | |
| harmonica | ambient | 20 |
| | complex$_{-1}$ | |
| | corruscating$_{-1}$ | |
| | etc... | |
| | entrancing | |
| | euphoric | |
| | expansive$_{-1}$ | |
| | evocative | |
| | fluid | |
| | hypnotic | |
| | levitating | |
| | malleable | |
| | melodies within | |
| | monstrous$_{-2}$ | |
| | quasi-repetitive | |
| | thought provoking | |
| | sexy | |
| | spacey | |
| | timeless | |
| | visual | |
| raw | austere$_{-1}$ | 17 |
| | but...communicative, maybe not$_{-1}$ | |
| | careless$_{-1}$ | |
| | free form$_{-1}$ | |
| | g-spot inducing$_{-1}$ | |
| | homemade$_{-1}$ | |
| | leotard$_{-1}$ | |
| | love em long time | |
| | obscene | |
| | orgasm inducing$_{-1}$ | |
| | quasi-artistic$_{-1}$ | |
| | nauseating$_{-1}$ | |
| | noncomputer$_{-1}$ | |
| | ski fungus$_{-1}$ | |
| | vocals | |
| | voices | |
| | whatever$_{-1}$ | |
| craft | arthouse | 42 |
| | beatssometimes | |

broadway musical style$_{-1}$
but...communicative, maybe not$_{-2}$
complex$_{-2}$
cold$_{-1}$
complexity$_{-1}$
creepy
cut-up$_{-1}$
cut-up$_{-1}$
dense blocks of gut quaking pain$_{-1}$
digital
dynamic$_{-1}$
dynamic$_{-1}$
dynamic$_{-1}$
entrancing$_{-1}$
etc...$_{-1}$
evocative$_{-1}$
Fred West meets Steps$_{-1}$
g-spot inducing
homemade
hyperdynamic$_{-1}$
Kosakai's envious wardrobe$_{-1}$
layered$_{-1}$
loosely structured$_{-1}$
malleable$_{-1}$
melodies within$_{-1}$
multi-layered$_{-1}$
noncomputer
precarious balanced$_{-1}$
quasi-artistic
quasi-repetitive$_{-1}$
screaming
self conscious
sexy$_{-1}$
sonic
space shifting$_{-1}$
STEREO
thought provoking$_{-1}$
textured$_{-1}$
visual$_{-1}$
well-layered$_{-1}$

*Science of Noise* bullshit as I believe originally spewed on iheartnoise

This is an idea I've toyed with for more than a few years now: to measure noise based on a few fixed criteria. Namely, harshness, density, rawness, craftsmanship, spasticity, harmonicaness. (details below)

It's something I meant to post to alt.noise a while back. I didn't because I was chickenshit. I decided that the rather arbitrary notion of "fixed criteria" would collapse under the cumbersome tide of outraged criticism, and be consigned forever to rot in the bowels of a bottomless flamepit. So I copped out with an open survey-style question: "Describe noise in five to eight words".

For results of the bogus survey, go here:

https://groups.google.com/g/alt.noise/c/X54SPqfjkHM/m/iUXd8xtVTFAJ [edit: fixed]

The survey results, however, in more recent hindsight, support what I`ve always felt: that most of us listen to noise for the same reasons, and are usually listening for the same damn thing. Noise is, before anything else, a word. A word implies a limit. If we can have a limit, we can have a fixed analytical system.

The following are the categories I think would serve noise best:

Harshness. The overall sound pressure and intensity. The degree to which the sound consistently assaults the ear. The literal, physical effect on the listener`s ability to hear, both in the immediate and the foreseeable future. Hearing aids, anyone? Incapacitants score high in this area, MSBR not so high.

Density. The overall depth and complexity. The degree to which the abysmal depths of noise are both hinted at and permeated. The sense of being sucked into a bottomless chasm of unimaginable diversity and motion. Skin Crime scores it big, early Masonna barely registers.

Rawness. The logical extension of a savagely twisted no-fi obsession, and the grim, brutal, barebones honesty that goes with it. Mutilated meatgrinder grit. Mangled tapehead fidelity. Burned out saturated flatulence. Knurl and Prurient take this particular taco.

Craftsmanship. The demonstrated technique and skill, time and effort, preparing and/or performing. The extent to which the seemingly effortless flow and fluidity fools the puny brain into perceiving a "musical" context. Compositional factors may also weigh in: editing, layering, mixing, composing. Kazumoto Endo and Sickness get top marks.

Spasticity. The vertiginous sense of displacement and disorientation.  The extent to which the warped noisebrain is fucked with, and rendered senseless, dazed, drunken pulp. Fresh and spontaneous whiplash nervesnap. Synaptic gaps ad stupidum. Can`t put your finger on it? Can`t get your bearings? Ready to give up and call it "noise"? All right then. Gomikawa Fumio at ya.

Harmonicaness. The world of drone. The mostly uncontrollable interplay of undertones and overtones which gently, but firmly, convey the drowsy attention span deep into the slumbering heart of Never Never Land. CCCC and early Stimbox are definite frontrunners.

There's a fair bit of overlap, but I'm hardly suggesting this to be an exact science. Call it another tool in the eternal quest to locate the shit you wanna hear.

Here are some sample "reviews" employing these criteria:

Incapacitants - No Progress (Alchemy)
Harshness 10
Density 7.5
Rawness 7
Craftsmanship 5.5
Spasticity 3
Harmonicaness 8

Masonna - shinsen na clitoris (Vanilla)
Harshness 9
Density 2
Rawness 7.5
Craftsmanship 6
Spasticity 9.5
Harmonicaness 3

Gasolineman - born in the high octane fuel (out)
Harshness 9
Density 4.5
Rawness 5
Craftsmanship 7.5
Spasticity 10
Harmonicaness 1

Metrocide / Analog Weapon (23 Productions)
Harshness Metrocide 9 / Analog Weapon 8
Density Metrocide 7 / Analog Weapon 6.5
Rawness Metrocide 5.5 / Analog Weapon 7.5
Crafstmanship Metrocide 8 / Analog Weapon 6
Spasticity Metrocide 6.5 / Analog Weapon 7.5
Harmonicaness Metrocide 7.5 / Analog Weapon 2.5

The Rita / Kevin Rivard - Shin Health (self released)
Harshness 8
Density 4.5
Rawness 10

Craftsmanship 6
Spasticity 8
Harmonicaness 4

Mauthausen Orchestra - Bloodyminded (?)
Harshness 6.5
Density 5
Rawness 8.5
Craftsmanship 4.5
Spasticity 3
Harmonicaness 7.5

Yellow Cab - s/t (GROSS)
Harshness 9.5
Density 7
Rawness 6
Craftsmanship 6.5
Spasticity 8
Harmonicaness 6.5

Killer Bug - Steaming Gash (b/b)
Harshness 10
Density 7
Rawness 2.5
Craftsmanship 8.5
Spasticity 8.5
Harmonicaness 8.5

Note: I initially meant for this system to be used as a supplement to legitimate reviews, and NOT to replace reviews proper. In my vision: "The busy noiseperv glances at the scores... vaguely interested or curious (though more probably merely offended), the perv reads the spew to follow..."

All flames welcome.

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Here's an old Mr Blumpy (Soddy) review whose scores clearly reflect how far outside (Soddy's understanding of) the HN confines Astro occasionally strays. It seems pretty clear, however, that the reviewer quite enjoyed the shit.

## Astro – Shell Star / Spica

Now, this is a fucking gorgeous bit of sound. Astro`s quietest outing yet, but rich, beautiful, deeply haunting, icy-smooth, shimmering psychedelia. The crystalline analog-synth permutations meet expectations sound-wise, but exceed them in terms of quality. Looks good too, housed in this cool, black,

wood box; a cute little fetish *objet* to go with your Merzbox. Back to sound. Bell-like drones tremble and tumble into circular, ringing, squeegee, and lavish, deep-sea, quiver. Cascading chimes, scintillating starbursts, cavernous whispers. Leisurely builds and sighs, waves cresting and plummeting ever downward, reverberant upward sweeps, sparkling, glittering flow. Echoes of Stimbox in the pacing, deliciously sexy sweetness sucking the listener into an enchanting, aromatic, viscosity. Warm wet wispy waterlogged wavering washes whet the porn palette as luscious lubricated tongues elongate and lick lazily at gaseous baby-pucker harmonics, luxurious, strawberry-frosted sophistication and style.

Harshness 0.0
Density 6.9
Rawness 0.0
Craftsmanship 9.3
Spasticity 0.0
Harmonicaness 8.9

*Posted to Special Interests Feb 2010*

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## Borbetomagus & Hijokaidan - Both Noises End Burning

*digest* ANALysis:
Primal screechery diffuses across a broadened, multi-tiered, swathe, ceding **Harshness** to near ambiance, nicely separated, textural elements pushing **Rawness** gradations down through smooth, grit-filtered flavorings that one mainly tastes in passing. **Craftsmanship** might be scored high on the basis of sustained interest, micromovements as readily entered as expunged, attempts to sanitize macrofornicated by the sheer beastly size of this mother. Savaged sensibilities then entertain a **Spasticity** most subtle: few surprises proper await, yes, yet yeti-like footsies stomp all over yer dong-pronged nethermosts, the insistent incoherencies anti-heretical as ill-articulated verbiage discharges diarrhetic, starbursts flashing wet and wild through roasted channel pan. Sheer numbers - Mikawa Jojo Junko Shibata Sauter Dietrich Miller - would doubtless dictate the **Densities** desired, at least on paper, but mixmaster-san's zeal to represent each component particle serves mainly to confuse or displace rather than inundate. No complaints, just sayin'. But just try following bansheed Junko shriek through Jojo'd jet engine wheeze through Miller-tinged sputterfuzz sewage funnels through alternately droning and squawking drainland sax-or-not overtones, all seemingly under control of The Mikawa. Fuck it, I'm through with this shit. Anybody helps me now! **Harmonicaness** wins the day.

*Posted to Special Interests Sep 2010* (repost of a much earlier post to the long defunct Noisefanatics forum)